GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3902
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2017
Cost Escalation
Jaiswal Dr. Sanjay

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been inordinate delay in the work on the Katra to Banihal rail line.
(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
(c) whether the cost of the said rail line has escalated as a result thereof: and
(d) if so, the details thereof along with the money spent so far on the stretch?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN)

(a) & (b): There have been some delays in work of Katra-Banihal section due to its unique nature of most challenging and difficult geological terrain of young fold mountain of the Himalayas. There are long tunnels and mega bridges in this section.

Delay in completion of work of Katra-Banihal section is due mainly to the following reasons:-
(i) Extremely complex geology of young fold mountains of the Himalayas.
(ii) Inaccessibility and remote location of various sites.
(iii) Repeated filing of Public Interest Litigation (PIL) in High Courts on alignment issues between 2009 to 2016, hampering the progress of work.
(iv) Difficult law and order situation in J&K State.
(v) Extreme weather conditions like snowfall.
(vi) Delays in acquisition of land and Forest clearances.

(c) & (d) : The cost approved by Cabinet Committee of Economic Affairs (CCEA) in January, 2012 of USBRL Project was 19565 crore, of which cost of Katra(30 km) − Banihal section is 13236 crore. The detailed estimated cost for Katra (30- km) −Banihal section is 21468 crore. The total expenditure incurred on Katra (30km) −Banihal section up to July 2017 is 9309 crore.

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